

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 13, 1995

Published Since 1877

Mississippi archeologist says...

New discoveries may lead to biblical Zaphon

By Jerry Vardaman

Editor's note: New archeological discoveries are constantly shedding light on biblical names and places. Recently Jerry Vardaman of Starkville delivered a lecture in Dallas before the Institute of Biblical Research. The following is a condensed version of that lecture entitled "A New Inscription Mentioning (Baal) Zaphon of the Old Testament, in the Jordan Valley."

© Jerry Vardaman

In the Old Testament there are three cities mentioned by the name Zaphon: one in Syria, one in Egypt, and one in the Jordan Valley. It is the Jordan Valley Zaphon that concerns us here.

Joshua 13:27 records that Zaphon belonged to the tribe of Gad. Judges 12:1 states that it was on the eastern side of the Jordan River, a place where the Ephraimites confronted the forces of Jephthah and a fierce battle ensued.

A clan of Gad from the city of Zaphon is mentioned in Genesis 46:16 and Numbers 26:15.

The student of the Bible who does any advanced study at all in Old Testament research will at once encounter numerous theories concerning the location of Zaphon. Theories advanced for the site include Tell es-Saidiyeh, Tell Mazar, Tell Qos, Tell Buweib, Tell Faqaris, and Tell Ammatha (due to the direct statement in the Jerusalem Talmud that the two places are to be identified).

The Old Testament scholar G. Holscher, without trying to be specific, suggested that Zaphon was located somewhere between Pella and the Wady Arab.

The thrust of this article sets forth a new identification for Zaphon: Tell Abu Habil.

I was in the Holy Land in May 1994, serving as a consultant for a photographic mission sent out by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Others in the group were James McLemore (with Mississippi ties), Brent Bruce, and Bob Schatz.

I was excited at that time while in Gadara by the discovery of a road marker (previously unrecognized) which mentioned the New Testament city of Capernaum.

I noted at the same time and place (in the Gadara museum) a text I will address later in this article.

The spellings of the first text were difficult to understand, and I did not pay as much attention to it as the one from Gadara mentioning Capernaum.

I paid great attention to its place of exact discovery and all of the circumstances of background — how long the museum had possessed it, etc.

I neglected to gather such elaborate details on the text I now refer to as the Zaphon Text.

I was again in Gadara in August 1994, this time with a small group from Mississippi: Mr. and Mrs. Doug Herring, and Mr. and

Mrs. Bob Horner of Hattiesburg, and my wife Alfalene.

I took great pains to carefully photograph the Zaphon Text and with study was finally able to make sense of it. It mentioned "Baal Zaphon," spelled in an unusual way, but acceptably enough.

We should remember that the ancients did not have a Samuel Johnson who could make authoritative announcements on uniform spelling!

The surface of the stone on which the Greek letters were carved also had some lighter texts scratched (and perhaps some painted), to the effect that it was 26 Roman miles to the city of Baal Zaphon (from Gadara, obviously).

The task, therefore, of locating the site was made much easier and more confidently with that valuable piece of information.

The Roman mile is shorter than the English mile.

Twenty-six Roman miles equal 23 1/2 English miles.

This 26 Roman miles are also equated in the lighter texts on the stone with 207 stadia (instead of the expected 208 stadia; the approximation is close).

As one moves from Gadara, no site seems to match the requirements better than Abu Habil.

In 1975 the Jordanian government authorized a survey of the archeological sites in the northern part of the Jordan Valley, primarily through the efforts of George Mendenhall of the University of Michigan.

Approximately 106 sites were studied and the pottery collected and analyzed to determine when those locations were occupied.

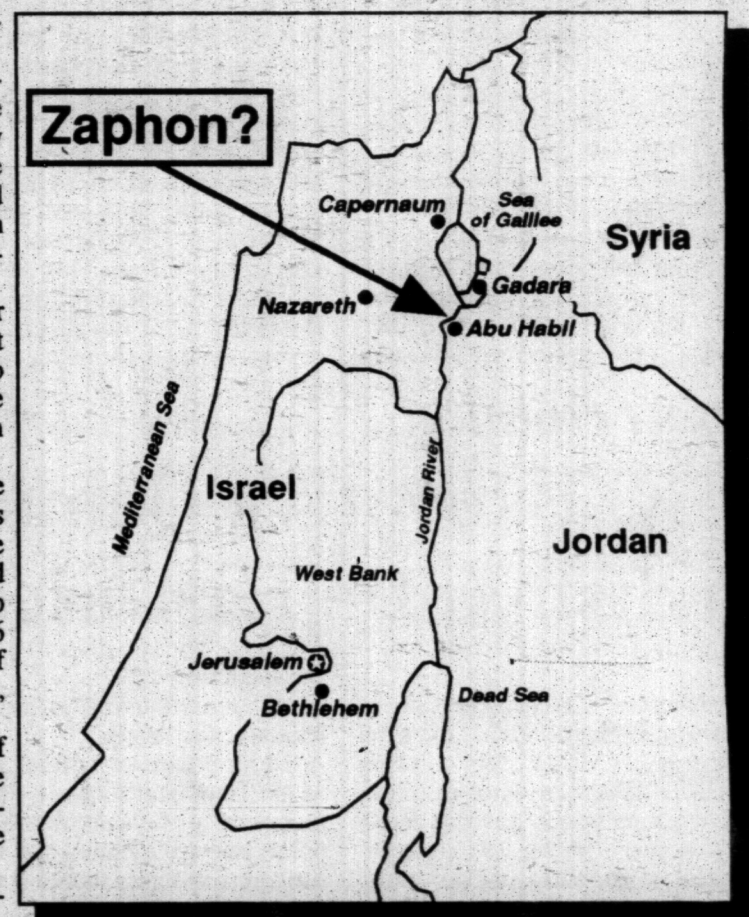
From the written history of Zaphon we know when the site should be settled, and since archeologists can use pottery to learn when a site was inhabited, the task was to find the right location which would match the historical evidence and the archeological evidence.

Critically, the road marker (as such it has unusually large letters) was the key — with its extra detail of information that the place was 26 Roman miles from Gadara.

The following matches resulted:

— Tell Abu Habil was exactly the right distance from Gadara.

— Tell Abu Habil was settled exactly when we know from other sources that Zaphon was occupied: the Iron Age, the Hellenistic period, and the Early Roman period (Abu Habil was settled somewhat earlier and later than these times, but the essential times



Road sign from antiquity: "Baal Zaphon 26 miles"



© Jerry Vardaman

Roman miles

XXVI

English miles

23.5

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The day of triumph

The resurrection was God's seal of triumph. Everything Christ had claimed was validated and the testimonies were many. "Truly this was the son of God," declared a Roman soldier. "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom," the request and testimony of a dying man. Even nature was in revolt over the death of Christ and the sun refused to shine and the rocks were rent asunder.

Angels were on the scene and one announced to Mary at the tomb, "He is not here; for he is risen." The four gospel writers testified to this triumph of the ages. The rising of the sun on the first day of the week signaled a new beginning. The world Redeemer was on the scene and the tingle was first felt in Jerusalem.

The empty tomb stands as a perpetual witness that Christ is alive. It verified his word and the last word is love, not hate; forgiveness, not rejection; life, not

death. "Because I live, ye shall also live," were the consoling words of Jesus. The resurrection is the most amazing of all the miracles. Jesus had staked his life and his ministry on it.

What does the day of triumph mean to us in 1995? What does it mean when Jesus said, "I am he who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys to Hades and Death" (Rev. 1:18).

Christ demonstrated his deity and vindicated his character. The very completeness of redemption was exemplified. It brings assurance. The vital union with Christ teaches us the Christian life is the outliving of the indwelling Christ. The resurrection answers the age-old question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" What a demonstration of his power! This Jesus was the same personality after death. He recognized his disciples and commissioned them to continue

his work. The victory of that day is the victory for all who believe on him.

Two famous Englishmen, Gilbert West and Lord Littleton, were confirmed atheists who agreed that Christianity should be destroyed. They further agreed the only way to stop Christianity was to disprove the resurrection. They planned to research the resurrection accounts and meet in one year to compare their notes. Both men came together one year later, and found to their surprise that each of them had converted to Christ as a result of their research.

Amidst all the beautiful lilies, the nail-crested dogwood, and the amazing declaration of a new day, we must not lose sight of him who brought it to pass. We love our church, our families, and our Christian family, and come to praise him "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Guest Opinion...

SBC Executive Committee wants to dismantle Historical Commission

By James R. Lynch

A Program and Structure Study Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has proposed a major reorganization of the 19 SBC-related agencies, eliminating seven existing agencies. The Executive Committee has approved the proposal, named it the "Covenant for a New Century," and will present it for majority approval at SBC annual meetings in Atlanta in June 1995 and New Orleans in 1996.

The proposal calls for elimination of the Historical Commission. The Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives would remain in the SBC building in Nashville but would be supervised and administered by a newly-created Council of Seminary Presidents. The proposal also directs that responsibility for assisting churches in the study and promotion of Baptist history be transferred to the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) and only implemented by incorporation in the Sunday School curriculum. However, a separate proposed mission statement for the BSSB shows no priority at all for heritage or identity concerns or teaching Baptist history as part of its mission. In the proposal the Executive Committee makes no

ministry assignment to the BSSB for these functions.

Lynn May, executive director of the Historical Commission, in a response to the committee's proposal, stated: "I cannot and will not support a recommendation for dismantling the Historical Commission and reassigning of some of its program assignments and functions to other agencies." He noted that under the proposal to transfer administration of the archives to a Council of Seminary Presidents "the concerns of history would not have the priority they should have and must have in order to preserve the total history and heritage of Baptists in general and Southern Baptists in particular."

May noted the clear decrease in priority for heritage education in the proposal, criticized the negative effect the report would have on the Historical Commission staff, and predicted that eliminating the agency "will ultimately result in the loss of what has been accomplished throughout the work of the Historical Commission in the past 44 years."

Slayden Yarbrough, SBC Historical Commission chair, concerned with "the growing trend to minimize our heritage," said, "If we dissolve the Historical Commission, we will betray the heritage of

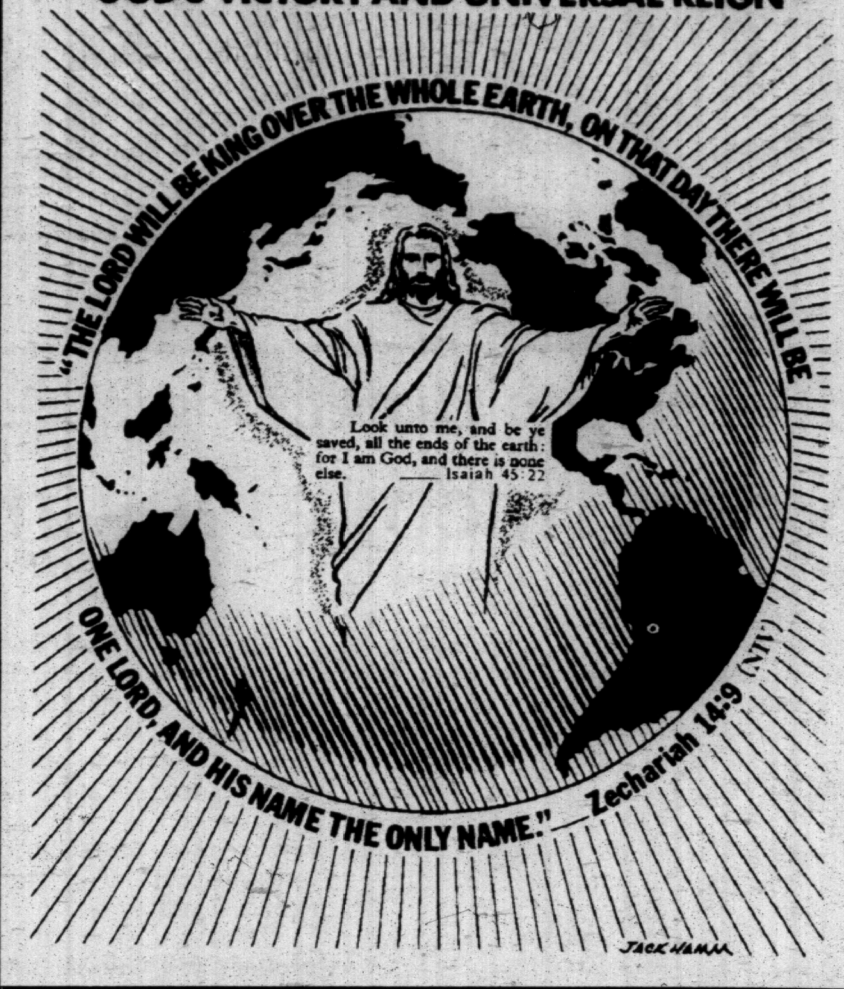
those who have come before us, and we will be held accountable by those who follow us."

During its life the Historical Commission has developed a network of historians in local churches and associations; given major priority to heritage education in churches through tracts, brochures, videos, publications, special programming, and workshops; microfilmed for preservation and distribution massive quantities of source research material; developed a significant and respected library and archives; and promoted state Baptist historical collections and organizations.

The SBC Executive Committee's proposal is a deliberate decision not to give priority to heritage education in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention. It would seriously undermine preservation and research in Baptist history nationally. When any Baptist union chooses to neglect its historic identity and heritage, the witness of all other Baptists is diminished.

Lynch is editor, *The Primary Source*, published by the American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library in Rochester, N.Y. This article appeared in the newsletter's March 1995 edition.

GOD'S VICTORY AND UNIVERSAL REIGN



THE FRAGMENTS

A certain, but uncertain step

David reminds us "there is but a step between me and death." This step, for which we can seldom be prepared, came this week to two friends of so many Mississippians.

Last Wednesday April 5, David Campbell Doty, 19, was killed in an auto accident. The whole Mississippi College community, Clinton, and Brookhaven, were stunned. Doty was a ministerial student and was planning to be a student summer missionary. I know his parents and weep with them. I knew his grandfather, Syd Doty of Forest, who pioneered so much in the work of music directors. Blessings on his grandmother,

who stills lives in Forest.

On Thursday April 6, my friend E.R. Pinson, 92, gathered his robe about him and shook free of the flesh. For over 50 years he taught God's Word to his beloved students at Clarke College and Mississippi College. He stood tall in a hall of fame unknown to so many. How often have I seen children, youths, and adults give him warm hugs at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, where he was a member.

Two friends — one 19, the other 92 — took this step and made heaven a finer place. Who knows? The student and the prof may be comparing notes today. — GH

The ministry of Book-Link

Book-Link was organized in 1988 as a mission action project of the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators and coordinated under the authority of the Brotherhood Commission.

It sprang from the Books for the World project, brainchild of former Southern Baptist Convention president, the late Owen Cooper of Yazoo City. The ministry of Book-Link was for many years carried out by its founder, Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, with the help of his wife Dot.

Book-Link serves to collect, pack, and ship Christian materials to missionaries and the nationals with whom they work. The min-

istry relies solely on contributions from churches, associations, groups, and individuals.

Among the most requested items are: Bibles and New Testaments, Bible atlases, concordances, Bible book commentaries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, hymnals, sermon cassettes, and other religious resource materials.

Send donations to Olin Williams, 4155 Hwy. 328 W. Eubank, KY 42567. All donations are tax deductible and receipts will be sent to all contributors.

(Excerpted from an article which appeared in the April 1995 issue of WMU's *Royal Service* magazine.)

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 119 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 10
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 per year plus \$1 postage increase (total: \$8.35) payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson
Proofreader.....Betty Smith
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Robert Self, Brookhaven; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Carl White, Clarksdale; Billie Buckley, Petal; Betty Smith, secretary.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.

SBC will hear Graham, celebrate 150 years, debate restructure

ATLANTA (BP) — Messengers to the 138th session of the Southern Baptist Convention will celebrate the denomination's 150th anniversary, hear evangelist Billy Graham, and take a first vote on whether to reduce the size of the SBC structure.

The annual meeting of the

nation's largest evangelical body, June 20-22 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, also will elect a president, conduct other business, and hear devotions on the theme from Matthew 28:19-20, "Empowered for The Unfinished Task."

Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, will offer the

benediction at the close of the June 21 morning session.

The proposal to reduce the size of the SBC's structure comes from a study commissioned by the Executive Committee in response to a referred motion at the 1993 SBC annual meeting.

The committee approved it in February and recommended it to the annual meeting.

Because it would dramatically change the convention's structure, it will take approval by messengers at two SBC annual meetings: this year and in New Orleans in '96.

That proposal will be submitted during the Executive Committee's report at 10 a.m. June 20.

Some of Southern Baptists' most visible personalities will bring theme devotions: Robert E. Naylor, former Southwestern Seminary president; W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus of First Church, Dallas; Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City; James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Sunday School Board; Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary; Alma Hunt, former executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary; layman Greg Horton, Simpsonville, S.C.; and Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of

the Executive Committee.

The convention sermon Wednesday morning will be given by R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The president's address will be Tuesday morning.

Atlanta's Georgia Dome, site of major athletic and entertainment events, will host the SBC meeting for the first time.

The playing field will be split, with the front platform sitting about on the 50-yard line.

With seating on the floor, organizers hope to accommodate about 30,000 in the Dome. Last year in Orlando, Fla., there were more than 20,000 messengers.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Annual Meeting — June 20-22, 1995

Georgia Dome, Atlanta

The Spirit of

Southern Baptists 1845-1995

Theme: Empowered for The Unfinished Task

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

Tuesday morning, June 20

- 8:45 Music: Adult Choir and Orchestra, First Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 8:30 Call to Order
- Congregational singing
- Prayer: Jim D. Prock, pastor, Central Church, Clovis, N.M.
- 8:35 Registration report and constitution of convention
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (first report)
- 8:45 Welcome: Larry W. Wynn, pastor, Hebron Church, Dacula, Ga.
- 8:50 Response: Paul Box, retired foreign missionary, Oklahoma City
- 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:00 Crossover Atlanta: Darrell W. Robinson, HMB vice president, Atlanta
- 9:05 Theme devotion: Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 9:15 Report: Denominational Press, Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, SBC Executive Committee
- 9:25 Report: Commission on The American Seminary, Stephen P. Carleton, secretary/treasurer, Nashville
- 9:35 Introduction of business and resolutions
- 9:50 Theme devotion: Robert E. Naylor, president emeritus, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth
- 10:00 Report: Executive Committee (part 1), Morris H. Chapman
- 10:55 Report: Stewardship Commission, Ronald E. Chandler, president, Nashville
- 11:05 Congregational singing
- 11:10 Music: Adult Choir and Orchestra, First Church, Orlando
- 11:15 Music: Kitty Henry Campbell, soloist, First Church, Orlando
- 11:20 President's Address: Jim Henry, SBC president, pastor, First Church, Orlando
- 12:00 Benediction: Bruce A. Perkins, pastor, Memorial Church, Grapevine, Texas

Tuesday afternoon, June 20

- 1:00 Music: The Specks, music evangelists, Owasso, Okla.
- 1:10 Music: The Stone Brothers, music evangelists, Huntsville, Ala.
- 1:20 Congregational singing
- Prayer: John L. Dees, pastor, Willowbrook Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 1:25 Business
- Committee on Order of Business (second report)
- Introduction of business and resolutions
- Theme devotion: W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus, First Church, Dallas
- 1:45 Report: Southern Baptist Foundation, Hollis Johnson III, president, Nashville
- 1:55 Congregational singing
- 2:00 Report: Radio and Television Comm., Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey: David W. Atchison, SBC recording secretary
- 2:20 Introduction of fraternal representatives
- 2:30 Report: Committee on Nominations, Bob Hutcherson, chairman, pastor, First Church, Austell, Ga.
- 2:40 Election of officers (first)
- 2:55 Executive Committee Report (part 2) — Morris H. Chapman
- 3:55 Theme devotion: Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City
- 4:05 Music: The Fairchilds, music evangelists, Atlanta
- 4:10 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:20 Report: Denominational Calendar, W. Wade Burleson, chairman, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Enid, Okla.
- 4:25 Introduction of business and resolutions
- 4:40 Election of officers (second)
- 4:55 Benediction: Michael P. Calvert, associate pastor, Hillcrest Church, Pensacola

Tuesday Evening, June 20

- 6:00 Music: Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, First Church, Atlanta
- 6:10 Music: Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, SBC Hymnody/Heritage Youth Choir
- 6:25 Congregational singing
- Prayer: Stanley A. Nelson, professor of theology, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

(Continued on Page 7)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 13, 1995

Published Since 1877

Exec. Committee meets in Jackson, fills three posts

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) met April 4 in their regular spring session. Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, presided.

The committee voted to employ two new consultants and one Baptist Student Union (BSU) director, and to transfer another BSU director.

David Thomas Wills, 33, was selected to be general administrative/associational consultant in the MBCB's Sunday School Department. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. Wills has served in youth work in Clinton and Amory and as minister of education at First Church, Oxford. Presently, he is minister of education at First Church, Pearl. He is married and has one child.

Glenn Shows, minister of family life at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, was approved to become consultant in the MBCB's Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Shows will work in the adult discipleship and family ministry section. He is a graduate of Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary. He is married and has two daughters.

T. Scott Vaughn was approved by the committee to be the Baptist Student Union director at East Central Community College in Decatur. He received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. He is currently pastor of Shiloh Church near Louisville. Previously, he served as summer missionary to Korea and Belize. Vaughn is married and has two children.

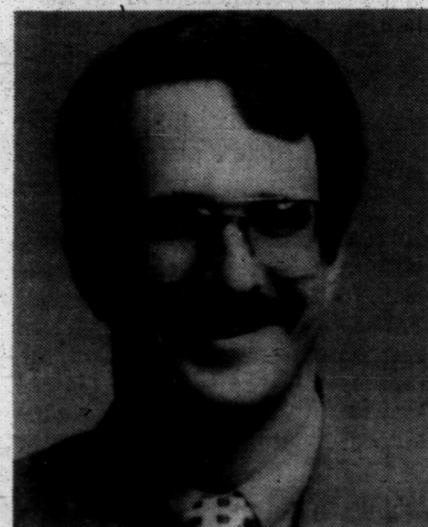
The committee also approved the transfer of Austin Wayne Vandiver from BSU director at Itawamba Community College in

Fulton to Northeast Community College in Booneville. Vandiver is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife have three children.

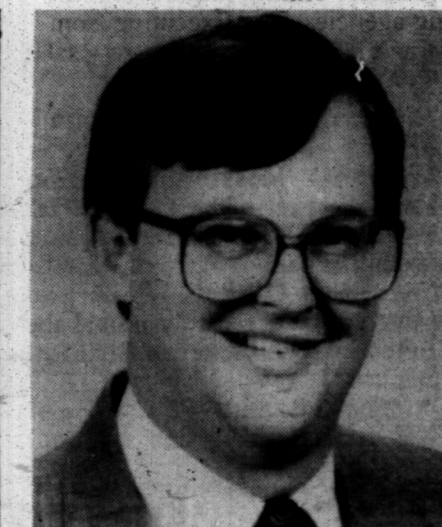
The committee also approved \$50,000 for the purchase of land for a new mission point on Rice Road near Madison. The mission will be sponsored by Metro Association, under the direction of Eddie Hamilton. The total price of

the 12.4 acres of land is \$140,000. Metro Association will be able to request additional funds in 1996.

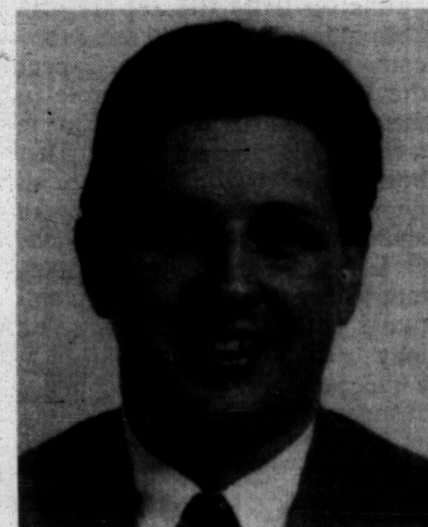
In other actions, the committee approved Dennis Duvall of Neshoba Association and Randle Poss of Oktibbeha Association to replace Curtis Guess and Hal Selby as members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Guess and Selby have moved from their respective associations.



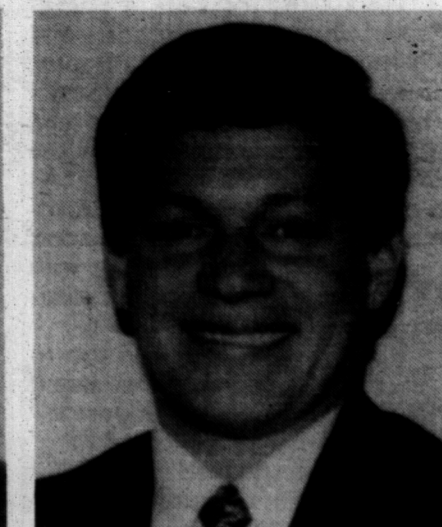
Wills



Shows



Vandiver



Vaughn



Easter is all about...

NASHVILLE — "The Head of Christ," was sculpted from a mass of clay to twice life size by **Sam Gore** during a chapel service on March 31 at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Gore, chairman emeritus of the Art Department at Mississippi College, Clinton, created the work accompanied by a music program, in 20 minutes. Gore said his objective is to share a creative experience while giving quiet adoration and praise to God. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

O'Brien issues letter of thanks for WMU's 1995 ProjectHELP

"We Can Help," was the name of the 1995 effort by the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), part of its first annual ProjectHELP to address important social issues.

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, recently issued the following open letter to Southern Baptists:

"Our goal for 'We Can Help' was 1 million cans and a quarter

per can to be distributed to local hunger relief ministries," O'Brien said.

"It is my privilege to share the final results of this ingathering with you. Together we have collected 1,239,268 cans and donated \$378,673.19 to feed the hungry in our communities. Stickers with the message 'Given in Jesus' Name' that were placed on donated cans helped undergird our commitment

to reaching the lost for Christ."

Of that total, Mississippians donated 66,277 cans of food and \$17,720 in cash, the WMU headquarters in Birmingham reported.

"Thank you to each of you who participated in this special project," O'Brien continued. "There is a place for each of you in ProjectHELP as together we address significant social issues, meet needs, and share the good news!"

PSSC chairman Brister affirms WMU

Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, and chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Program and Structure Committee, has expressed affirmation and support for the Woman's Missionary Union: "As a pastor I have supported Broadmoor WMU." The WMU leaders of Broadmoor Church, along with Louisiana state convention leaders, concur with the pastor.

Brister, in a letter written to state Baptist paper editors dated April 4, also quoted support for WMU given by SBC President Jim Henry: "Although members of the WMU have expressed concerns about the organization's

omission from the report, the Committee did the only thing they could do. They could not expect the WMU to be accountable to them because the WMU had made a choice not to be an agency. That being true it would have been wrong for them to have come in and demanded it.... I think it goes back to a thing that's very important to Southern Baptists — and that's cooperation and trust. As long as we can keep those levels at a high point, I don't see any major changes."

Jerry Rankin was quoted in the letter as saying, "it does not imply a change in our partnership with the WMU." Rankin said he

believes the Brister report (of the PSSC) offers unprecedented opportunities for WMU.

"The WMU represents a significant constituency among the convention....," Rankin continued. "It's regrettable that anyone would interpret a report dealing with convention agencies as having any intent to ignore or alienate the WMU as an auxiliary."

Brister maintains the Foreign Mission Board already had the assignment of promoting the Lottie Moon Offering. The PSSC is concerned that the state Baptist papers print the entire WMU story and that full information be disseminated to Southern Baptists.

Missions Day Camp planned for children of Atlanta messengers

ATLANTA (BP) — Special activities are planned again this year for children of parents attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta at the SBC Missions Day Camp.

Sponsored by the Children/Royal Ambassador Department of the Brotherhood Commission, SBC Missions Day Camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades one through six by June of this year.

In addition to the regular missions education emphasis, the day camp will include field trips to the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the Fernbank Science Center, and the Home Mission Board. Missionary speakers and conven-

tion tours will be added features. Volunteers from First Church, Huntsville, Ala., will provide assistance.

"We ask all parents to pre-register again this year," said Tim Seanor, SBC Missions Day Camp coordinator. Registration will be open to the first 250 children.

Parents should secure a registration packet by writing SBC Missions Day Camp, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or they may call (901) 272-2461. No telephone registrations will be accepted. There is no registration guarantee after May 30, 1995.

Parents or guardians of children who attended SBC Missions Day

Camp over the past three years will receive registration packets automatically.

A three-day package price of \$62 per child is available. Two different two-day packages are \$52 (Tuesday and Wednesday) and \$35 (Wednesday and Thursday). The individual day cost per child per day is \$35 for Tuesday; \$24 for Wednesday; and \$17 for Thursday. Prices include admission fees, transportation, accident insurance, lunch (Tuesday only), snacks, learning materials, a day-camp T-shirt and wristband.

Missions Day Camp operates during all daytime sessions of the convention, Tuesday through Thursday.

Arkansas WMU executive director questions SBC restructuring plan

CONWAY, Ark. (BP) — Using her annual executive board report to analyze a proposed Southern Baptist Convention restructuring plan, state WMU Executive Director Julia Ketner questioned whether grassroots Southern Baptists were represented in the planning process.

"My first concern is the make-up of the committee itself," she said. "It was all white, Anglo men from large churches."

"If we were looking to the future, then why wasn't an African-American or a non-English-speaking person appointed to

represent those areas in which Southern Baptists are growing?" she asked. "Or where was the representation of probably more than half of our membership — women?"

"The restructuring committee's report, 'Covenant for a New Century,' has proposed that SBC agencies be cut from 19 to 12. Under the proposed changes, responsibility for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, both founded by the national WMU, would be transferred to the SBC's home and foreign missions agencies."

Ketner also emphasized that the proposal was approved by the SBC Executive Committee "after only 45 minutes of discussing the most massive restructuring in the 150-year history of our convention."

Reviewing changes made by the national WMU in 1993 "aimed at helping WMU be relevant as a national missions organization in the 21st century," Ketner added, "You remember the responses: The analogy that WMU had committed adultery, that we had 'declared independence from the Southern Baptist Convention, that our real goal was to promote ordination of women.' These and other rumors surfaced in an attempt to discredit the work of WMU, to bring them under the control of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"The issue then and still is the matter of control," she declared. "WMU did not yield to the threats in 1993 but courageously chose to remain an auxiliary. So what steps have now been taken to 'punish' us for not submitting to control?"

"Woman's Missionary Union has been stripped of her work as missions educators with the assignment of missions education given to the North American Mission Board," she answered.

Ketner also noted that committee members "reported they did not assign any ministry statements for WMU out of respect for the organization's status as a

self-governing auxiliary. That sounds good if you don't look at the total picture."

"In respect being shown by taking from us the previously convention-adopted program statements?" she asked. "By taking away that which we started, the promotion of the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings? Is it respect when they chose not to even develop a written statement to define the relationship between the SBC and WMU?"

"Respect? Hardly," she insisted. "Yes, it may sound good, but for all practical purposes, WMU may have no assigned role to play in the Southern Baptist Convention should the report be approved as is."

"While there is much talk about how the relationship between WMU and the SBC doesn't have to be different," she explained, "without a statement to define that relationship, there is a strong possibility that WMU will eventually have no place in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention. I believe the committee has taken measures for that to happen without any concern for Southern Baptist missions."

Ketner also predicted that if the report is approved by Southern Baptist Convention messengers in 1995 and 1996, "the future of Woman's Missionary Union is very much in doubt."

She recalled how WMU has helped raise more than \$2 billion for world missions and helped with SBC fund-raising efforts. "Have we made a difference in SBC life?" she asked. "Indeed we have and continue to do so. But now, apparently we may no longer be needed or more accurately, wanted by those who must have control over all."

"It is time to speak out and stand up for what we began, what we believe in, and what we know is vital to the ongoing mission program of Southern Baptists," Ketner said. "It is not a time to be silent and let the missions task be taken away from WMU."

Tupelo partnership leads to new ideas for deaf ministry

By William H. Perkins Jr.

There have been a lot of changes lately in the deaf ministry at Calvary Church in Tupelo, and the members couldn't be happier.

"There is tremendous excitement in this church about the deaf ministry. We've had the ministry for about 20 years, but it's been mostly interpreting services (into sign language)," said Steve Hurt, minister of education.

All that has changed, however, with a more sophisticated, direct approach to reaching unchurched deaf people and bringing them into a church environment in which they are full participants.

Full participation at Calvary Church means a special Sunday School class, worship service, and after-church fellowships conducted for deaf people by deaf people — not just as passive observers clustered around a sign language interpreter during "hearing world" church events.

Sunday School material and hymnals for the deaf from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville are utilized, along with tracts for the deaf from the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The special emphasis is showing results. The Sunday School class now has 18 members and has overrun its meeting space.

There have been five professions of faith, and a total of 65 people who could benefit from the ministry have been identified in Lee County. An aggressive outreach program is underway.

So committed are church members to supporting this ministry that space for a deaf chapel has been allotted as part of the \$4.5 million building project currently underway to replace portions of the church destroyed by fire in late 1992.

Hurt said the church first established a cooperative partnership in October of 1994 with Lee Association and the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"The partnership is vital right now. We couldn't do it on our own," he stressed.

Bill Smith, director of missions for Lee Association, echoed Hurt's assessment.

"It shows that the state convention, an association, and a church can work together. If we're serious about reaching Mississippi for Jesus, we need to do this," Smith said.

The ministry has been a dream come true for Jerry Shaefer of Tupelo, a retired cartographer who has taken on the ministry as his full-time project. Shaefer is hearing-impaired and his wife Jane is deaf.

Jerry has started an 11-member Brotherhood group for deaf men, and Jane has eight members in her Woman's Missionary Union group for deaf women.

"I hope hearing people will be able to understand the deaf world," Jane signed.

Smith has given the Shaefer working space in Lee Association's office, and he expects big things to happen in the ministry.

"It opens up a mission field. In another year, we're going to find a lot more people," he said.

Virginia Dew of Plantersville, a member of the Sunday School class, is an avid supporter of the ministry.

"I learn more, and ideas are explained more clearly. I hope the ministry will stay here a long time," she signed.

Renee Eades agreed with Dew. "Jerry shows samples of God's work clearly," she signed.

Renee and her husband, both deaf, attend the Sunday School class. Their 17-month-old son Arthur attends Sunday School at Calvary with his age group.

Shaefer is working with WTVA-TV, the local NBC affiliate, to install closed-caption equipment that will enable church events to be broadcast to the deaf.

"They're interested; we've been well-received," he said.

Shaefer is also campaigning to have local emergency medical technicians trained in sign language and to have "deaf" flash on the computer screen of the local E-911 system when a deaf person calls with an emergency.

Hurt is proud of the church body's support for the ministry.

"Many of our church members and their families are truly wanting to experience God. They are spiritually alert; they don't want to miss out on this opportunity.

"It's great to see a deaf person make a profession of faith and then see the congregation sign, 'We love you,'" he said.

Thursday, April 13, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Jerry Shaefer (left), Sunday School teacher for the deaf at Calvary Church, Tupelo, watches as his wife Jane (right) signs during a session at the church. Virginia Dew (second from left) and Renee Eades (second from right) are members of the Sunday School class. Eades' 17-month-old son Arthur who is sitting in his mother's lap, attends Calvary Sunday School with his age group. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Land and Lewis remove names from controversial document

ATLANTA (BP) — Two Southern Baptist Convention leaders removed their signatures from the controversial document "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" (ECT).

The announcement came Thursday in a joint statement issued by Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission and Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board.

In the statement, Land and Lewis affirm "efforts which consolidate the influence of evangelicals and Catholics in addressing moral issues.... We are not personally rejecting the intent of the document, nor are we agreeing with unjust criticism of it."

However, the statement continues, "we believe it is in the best interest of our agencies that we eliminate the persistent perception that our agencies have endorsed ECT. It appears that the only way to do so is to remove our names from the document."

ECT was issued last year by

an unofficial group of 40 evangelical and Catholic leaders to foster greater cooperation on moral and social concerns. However, the accord and its signers have drawn persistent criticism, primarily questioning details of the theological issues briefly addressed in ECT. Critics have called for signers to remove their names from the document and to distance their respective churches, agencies, or ministries from it.

"A significant number of Southern Baptists have been offended by the misperception that our respective agencies have endorsed the document," Land

and Lewis said in the statement. "No matter how many times we explain that we signed ECT as individuals, not on behalf of our agencies or the Southern Baptist Convention, many do not understand. Confusion resulting from this continuing misperception has the potential to impact negatively the mission and ministries of our agencies."

Asked if pressure from critics forced them to remove their names, both men told Baptist Press they have endured more pressure on other issues: "The difference is that ECT embroiled the Home Mission Board even though the Board was not

SBC Cooperative Program shows slight dip in March

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for March were down .35% compared to that month last year but the year's receipts were 2.48% above the same period a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For March 1995, receipts totaled \$12,798,612, which is \$45,213 less than March 1994.

The fiscal year to date, October through March, totaled \$73,676,952 which is \$1,786,060 over the previous year's period, or

a 2.48% increase. Designated gifts were up for March 1995 at \$18,128,922, which is a \$980,402 or 5.72% increase, as well as 2.03% for the fiscal 1995 year to date over 1994: \$81,995,342 compared to \$80,366,033.

The March 1995 figure also surpassed by 12.48% the SBC budget requirement for the month of \$11,378,310.

For the year-to-date SBC program allocation budget, gifts for the six months totaled \$73,676,952 compared to \$68,269,865 for the previous year, or a 7.92% increase.

Whistle-blower says Annuity Board fired him for uncovering scam

DALLAS (ABP) — A former employee of the Annuity Board says he was fired for uncovering a computer scam at the Southern Baptist agency in Dallas.

The Annuity Board said March 28 it has investigated the "allegations of impropriety" in the purchase of new computers for the board but no one has been fired for blowing the whistle. The board "suffered no [financial] loss" in the affair, the statement added.

The allegations of wrongdoing came from Tony Mlakar, a former Annuity Board employee. Mlakar told a Dallas weekly newspaper that he had been terminated "for poor job performance" after reporting what he considered to be "self-dealing" by an Annuity

Board employee in the purchase of new computers for the board.

Mlakar, who installed and maintained the board's computers, found that many of the new machines purchased in early 1993 did not work properly. He said that he discovered they were not federally licensed, they had no serial numbers, many components were assembled incorrectly, and others lacked parts.

Mlakar said that when he blew the whistle on the employee, an internal audit supported his claims and recommended that the employee be reprimanded. Instead, Mlakar said, he was terminated in July 1994 and Jerry Bell, the employee whose actions he had questioned, was

never reprimanded.

According to Mlakar, the Annuity Board paid about \$85,000 for the faulty equipment before it stopped doing business with K.S. Computer, which is owned by a friend of Bell's. The purchases were part of a \$600,000 computer upgrade.

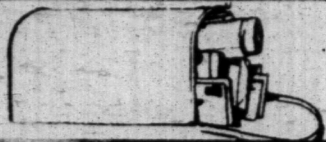
Thomas Miller, senior vice president for public relations, said the matter had been investigated and corrective action taken, but he added the board does not reveal the nature of corrective actions. Miller said that no employee had been terminated for reporting any perceived impropriety, but added that the board also does not discuss the nature of any separation from employment at the board.

Sadler gives nomination info

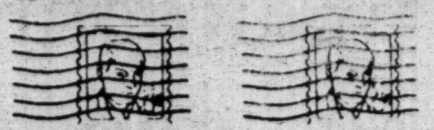
Ernest Sadler, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, requests nominations of qualified Baptists for boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be mailed to him at P.O. Box 1726, Pascagoula, MS 39568, or to the Office of the Executive Director, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Forms may be obtained from the office of the executive director, and should be returned no later

than July 31. Boards and commissions of the Convention are: Board of Ministerial Education, Christian Action Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Baptist Children's Village, Baptist Foundation, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis), Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, William Carey College, and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Letters to the editor



Outreach hindered

Editor:

In regard to **The Baptist Record**, March 16, page 5: The total page records the history of the Church Music Department, which is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its beginning.

According to the article, small churches have been a large part of that history and the success the department had enjoyed. Luther Harrison, as the "first secretary of church music," was responsible for increasing the number of music schools conducted by the state churches. It is difficult to find a music school these days, especially ones focused on the needs of small churches.

The choir director of our church announced that hence forth, no tapes for church services, cantatas, or other occasions when "special music" is presented, could be made. That announcement was based on a disclaimer on some recently received special music. The disclaimer states, "Possession of a CCLT license (which the church had purchased at some sacrifice only last year), does not give you permission to make copy of the music contained in this book." A symbol which accompanies this text defines the symbol as referring to the accompaniment compact disc, the price of which, for this one and similar others is \$60. This is a substantial amount for a music budget of \$280 per year.

The outreach ministry of this small church, which is primarily concerned with shut-ins and home bound care givers and members, is severely hampered by this restriction. Small churches do not have a staff of professional musicians for accompaniment.

Mary L. Bryant
Ovett

Blessed by music

Editor:

Last Saturday I had the joy of being in Clinton for the 50th

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
150 YEARS



anniversary celebration of the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department. What an event this was.

The sound of the music still lingers in my ears in Texas and the precious memories of seeing so many people who have shared in this program across these five decades.

Tributes were paid to Luther Harrison, W.C. Morgan, Dan C. Hall, and the present director L. Graham Smith. We stand today on the shoulders of those who made possible the development of church music among Mississippi Baptist churches. Thank God for all of them.

Mississippi is so fortunate in its leadership, and I know you are aware of this.

William J. Reynolds
Southwestern Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas

Why not, pen pals?

Editor:

In regard to Kristen Burton's letter requesting the return of the Pen Pal Club, why couldn't a member use the address of their church for their first letter? They could exchange addresses with their pen pals later without it being published in **The Baptist Record**.

Not that many people want Pen Pals, so I do not believe this would be an undue hardship on the churches. The writers could just pick up their mail on Sunday when they go to church.

Carolyn E. Jones
Greenwood

Editor's Note: An excellent suggestion.

More on LPCs

Editor:

In response to the [letter] dated March 16, "Professional's dream," as a licensed professional counselor (LPC) and graduate of New Orleans Seminary, I was pleased to note the reader's acknowledgement of LPCs as reliable partners with minister in meeting the needs of families and individuals. The writer said, "Many of our LPCs are Christians." In response, however, I must say that just because an LPC is a Christian does not assure the referring minister of "Christian counseling." Nor does being a Christian LPC necessarily qualify a counselor to do "Christian counseling." I have attended seminars and workshops with many LPCs who would profess themselves to be Christians, yet their comments and approaches to counseling do not appear to be uniquely Christian at all.

Please understand me, I think licensing Christian counselors or at least expecting them to belong to professional fellowships that demand certain academic and ethical standards for membership is the way to assure ministers they are referring to qualified partners in ministry. But being a Christian LPC in the state of Mississippi does not qualify or guarantee

"Christian counseling." The American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC) is a relatively new fellowship that is moving in the direction of establishing such standards for Christian counselors. I hope in the near future membership in this fellowship will to a great degree assure ministers they are referring to partners qualified to uniquely do "Christian counseling."

In 1989 the Rankin County Baptist Association established a "uniquely Christian counseling" ministry, Crossroads Counseling Center, located at 504 Grants Ferry Road near the reservoir. Since then, over 700 families have been ministered to at Crossroads. I pray that other associations will one day establish similar ministries.

C. Perry Sanderford, director
Crossroads Counseling Center
Brandon

Attend the BWC

Editor:

From Aug. 1-6, the 17th Baptist World Congress will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the theme "Celebrate Christ — the Hope of the World!"

Mississippi Baptists have a special relationship with Argentina. Baptists of Argentina remember very well the partnership with Argentina that Baptists from your state have had.

What a wonderful opportunity the Baptist World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, will be for Baptists in Mississippi to again meet their friends in Buenos Aires. This will be a time of encouragement and networking with Baptists from more than 100 countries from around the world.

If you have not yet made plans to come to Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 1-6, contact your local travel agent or write or fax the Baptist World Alliance at the following address: 6733 Curran Street, McLean, VA 22101. Telephone (703) 790-8980; or fax (703) 893-5160.

Denton Lotz, general secretary
Baptist World Alliance

Lack of balance

Editor:

Your editorial of March 23 regarding the Alliance of Baptists surprised me by its lack of balance.

I am a member of the Alliance of Baptists; what attracts me most to this group of Baptist Christians is the courage of their convictions. They have been willing to struggle with issues that most Baptists bodies have lacked the Christian courage to tackle. When the debacle which is now the Southern Baptist Convention was in its infancy they acted out of moral certitude and Christian courage and spoke about the evil among us. Because few listened, that evil is now marching triumphantly through Jerusalem.

What the Alliance was attempting to do in those two remarkable statements was simply to affirm

the brotherhood and sisterhood of all of God's people. These are statements that I believe Christ, in the depths of his love and forgiveness, would have affirmed as well. They challenge us to live and act as he lived and acted.

Your lack of balance in reporting this story, derives from the fact that by focusing only on those two statements you have overlooked the truth of what happened during those glorious days at Vienna Baptist Church. Evident in those days of worshipping and struggling together was the spirit of God working within and among us. Seldom have I worshipped with such intensity, seldom have I felt the communion of believers in such a palpable, visible way, affirming each other, loving each other, moving ever so purposely toward God's plan for our lives. It was an experience that even today convicts me, and makes me proud that the Alliance stands as a beacon of hope, open to all Christians. in God's own holy name.

Had you been there you would have felt the Spirit and you would have known how to judge.

Jose Orraca
Kent, Conn.

Editor's Note: The reference is to the Baptist Alliance receiving the report on human sexuality; they will refrain from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Also, they affirmed the "efficacy of the Jewish faith."

On women's ministry

Editor:

Many are praying for the specific guidance of the Holy Spirit with regards to new approaches and challenges that will broaden and deepen women's efforts in reaching humanity for Christ.

As a young, inexperienced missionary-volunteer I was so very fortunate to have many dedicated Christians encourage me to push on with my studies and to utilize every opportunity to help others relate to my Savior.

Shortly after my missionary appointment, Charles Maddy permitted the WMU of Alabama to use me in Schools of Missions for a one year period. Florence Thomassen of the Woman's Missionary Union drove me to speak in two churches many evenings in several Schools of Missions. This WMU worker set a superb example, with her zeal and push, to promote the missionary cause by using me — young, inexperienced, but willing. I am sure that young appointees galore benefit and serve helpfully when such opportunities are afforded them.

No person, or persons, on the earth can stop the women from praying, nursing, doctoring, giving, speaking, writing, teaching, demonstrating, and organizing to achieve the task they know their Lord has given them. They will not neglect their children, their husbands, and their country's welfare as they continue to be unusually sensitive to the Holy Spirit's

unique guidance.

At age 79 I look back on a life of adventure with my Lord. I am still teaching seminary and university students, along with my husband who is 80 years old. We now have the privilege of working with Korean and other Asian Baptists during the first year of establishing a university in the Los Angeles area.

Thank God for the WMU's sponsorship of Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong annual mission offerings, over and above the support of Cooperative Program giving.

World mission needs the auxiliary women's organizations, as Jesus and the apostles demonstrated long ago, as women pitched in, as only they can do, with their money and other service. As we prepare to take the gospel into all the world in the almost-here 21st century, let us strengthen and support the Woman's Missionary Union!

Kitty Thomstad Anderson
La Habra, Calif.

"Adapt" to serve?

Editor:

Since receiving **The Baptist Record** for more than three years now, thanks to Broadmoor Church, Jackson, I have enjoyed reading about the work in Mississippi.

I would like to respond to a letter by David A. Crowe, pastor of Siloam Church.

Crowe rephrases or may even ask the question "Should the church 'adapt' so that some may be saved?" He put in quotations the word "some." His meaning I didn't understand unless it meant that those people, because they came to a football game, didn't get saved.

Others must understand that the Super Bowl Sunday Service is just that, a service, albeit framed a little differently. When persons came to our service they ate some food, watch some football, heard testimonies by football players who loved the Lord, and then participated in a worship service where the gospel wasn't compromised.

Then we get to the real truth. All the churches who "adapt" to win some are crippled churches! I wondered why our church was only baptizing approximately 15% per year of our average Sunday School attendance. We're crippled! That must be why we only give 16% to the Cooperative Program. We're crippled!

Finally, I thought God handed out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. My Bible doesn't have the word "sword" as one of those things given out. Maybe the "sword" he is referring to is God's Holy Word. In that case I'll pick up God's Word in love, limping along until I meet Jesus face to face and he heals me of my crippled state.

Craig F. Stout, associate pastor
First Church
Princeton, W. Va.

SBC would decline if not for ethnic growth

ATLANTA (ABP) — Without the increase in ethnic congregations over the last decade and a half, the Southern Baptist Convention would be a declining denomination.

"The SBC would show a negative 3% growth rate in number of congregations," said Bill Fulkerson, assistant director of language church extension at the Home Mission Board.

By the mid-1980s, the SBC's ethnic-minority membership was growing at the fastest rate of any American denomination, according to a United Methodist survey. Southern Baptists led U.S.

denominations in establishing new ethnic-minority congregations during the 1975-1984 period, the survey also showed.

The trend has continued so that today Southern Baptists across the nation worship in 101 languages and dialects in more than 8,000 non-Anglo language and cultural churches with more than 500,000 members.

Hispanic congregations comprise the single largest SBC language-culture group with 3,487 churches and missions with more than 236,000 members.

Asian, Caribbean, European, and Middle Eastern congregations

are among Southern Baptists' fastest-growing.

The second-largest Southern Baptist Sunday School in California is at First Chinese Church in Los Angeles. Two of the three largest Southern Baptist churches in New England are Haitian. New York's largest Southern Baptist church is the French Speaking (Haitian) Church in Brooklyn.

More than 40 ethnic Baptist fellowships meet during the SBC annual meeting. In 1994, an African American and an Asian American were elected SBC vice presidents.

HEALTHCARE

FOR THE RECORD

Shepherds for a Diverse Flock.

Chaplains add a spiritual dimension to MBMC's medical care.

The eight chaplains of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center are charged with shepherding one of the most unusual flocks in the greater Jackson area. Rather than devote their time to individual church congregations, these ordained ministers work to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the thousands of patients, families and staff members who come through MBMC's doors each year.

"We're a non-profit, Christian-based organization, and everyone employed here contributes in some way to our Christian ministry of healing," said the Reverend Paul Stephenson, director of MBMC's Pastoral Care Department. "But it especially falls on our chaplains to bring a spiritual dimension to our care," he said.

MBMC chaplains are available at any time of the day or night to befriend, counsel and encourage patients and their family members through every type of medical procedure or illness — from rejoicing over the birth of a child, to offering continued support over the months during an extended cancer treatment. They also help give families

a sense of continuity by providing weekly non-denominational chapel services and Sunday school classes inside the hospital.

MBMC's mission of ministry doesn't stop with our patients; though. Chaplains also work to alleviate the stress a hospital environment can cause for employees, staff members and their families. And through a new service called the Samaritan Counseling Center, we're reaching out to the public with a broad range of mental health services that are rooted in Christian faith. We serve individuals, pastors and church groups with confidential counseling programs designed to offer therapy in a comfortable, familiar setting.

At a time when so many hospitals are mainly focusing on the big-business pursuit of profits, we're proud to devote ourselves to a mission focused on love and Christian concern.

If you would like more information about counseling or any other services our chaplains offer, please call us at 948-MBMC (6262) or 1-800-948-MBMC.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Thursday, April 13, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

SBC Program, continued from Page 3

6:30 Report: Sunday School Board, James T. Draper Jr., president, Nashville.
6:40 Sunday School Board presentation
7:00 Theme devotion: James L. Sullivan, retired president, Sunday School Board, Nashville
7:10 Committee on Order of Business (third report): Fred Powell
7:15 Congregational singing
7:20 Previously scheduled business and introduction of new business and resolutions
7:35 Election of officers (third)
7:45 Sesquicentennial presentation (part I)
8:45 Benediction: Joe K. Taylor, pastor, S. Reno Church, Reno, Nev.

Wednesday morning, June 21

8:30 Music: Sons of Jubal, Georgia Convention ministers of music
8:40 Congregational singing
Prayer: Daniel, McCrosky, pastor, First Church, Arlington, Ky.
8:45 Introduction of Local Arrangement Committee: John R. "Jack" Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, SBC Executive Committee
8:50 Theme devotion: Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth
9:00 Report: Baptist World Alliance, Denton Lotz, general secretary, McLean, Va.
9:10 Congregational singing
9:15 Bold Mission Thrust Report: Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president, SBC Executive Committee
9:25 Election of officers (fourth)
9:30 Introduction of past presidents: Jim Henry
9:35 Seminary presentation and reports:
William O. Crews, president, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.
Milton Ferguson, president, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.
Kenneth S. Hemphill, president, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth
Landrum P. Leavell II, interim president, New Orleans Seminary, N.O., La.
R. Albert Mohler Jr., president, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
10:35 Congregational singing
10:40 Business
Committee on Order of Business (fourth report): Fred Powell
Introduction of business (Last Time)
10:50 Previously scheduled business
11:10 Committee on Resolutions (first report)
11:20 Election of officers (fifth)
11:25 Music: Seminary Choir, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
11:35 Convention sermon: R. Albert Mohler Jr.
12:15 Benediction: Jim G. Butler, pastor, Trinity Church, Southaven, Miss.

No Wednesday Afternoon Session

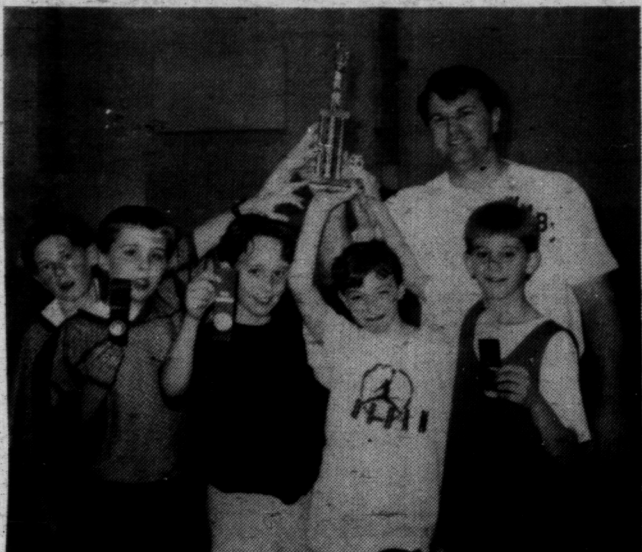
Wednesday evening, June 21

6:00 Music: Adult Choir and Orchestra, Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham
6:25 Congregational singing
Prayer: J. Mark Bond, pastor, First Church, LaCenter, Ky.
6:30 Business
Committee on Order of Business (fifth report): Fred Powell
Election of 1996 convention sermon preacher, alternate, and music director
6:35 Congregational singing
6:40 Theme devotion: Alma Hunt, former executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.
6:50 Report: Woman's Missionary Union, Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham
7:00 Report: Brotherhood Commission, James D. Williams, president, Memphis
7:10 Report: Home Mission Board, Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
7:20 Report: Foreign Mission Board, Jerry A. Rankin, president, Richmond, Va.
7:30 Foreign & Home Mission Board presentation (part II)
8:30 Commitment Invitation: Jim Henry
8:40 Benediction: Joe Porter, retired director of missions, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Thursday morning, June 22

8:30 Music: The Crossmen, First Church, Moore, Okla.
8:40 Music: Babbie Mason, music evangelist, Marietta, Ga.
8:50 Congregational Singing
Prayer: Marcus Sizemore, retired pastor, Pleasant Garden, N.C.
8:55 Report: American Bible Society, Eugene B. Habecker, president and chief executive officer, New York
9:05 Memorial Service
9:10 Report: Education Commission, Stephen P. Carleton, ex. director, Nashville
9:20 Report: Annuity Board, Paul Powell, president, Dallas
9:30 Theme devotion: Greg Horton, layman, Temple Church, Simpsonville, S.C.
9:40 Report: Historical Commission, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
9:50 Report: Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group, Larry L. Lewis
10:00 Report: Christian Life Commission, Richard D. Land, ex. director, Nashville
10:10 Theme devotion: Paige Patterson
10:20 Presentation of outgoing SBC officers: Morris H. Chapman
10:25 Introduction of newly elected SBC officers: Morris H. Chapman
10:30 Congregational singing
10:35 Previously scheduled business
10:45 Committee on Resolutions (final report)
10:55 Tribute to Billy Graham: Morris H. Chapman
11:00 Music: George Beverly Shea, soloist, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Minneapolis
11:10 Introduction: Jim Henry
11:15 Message: Billy Graham, evangelist, Montreat, N.C.
12:00 Benediction: Alan Cox, pastor, First Church, Moore, Okla.

Just for the Record



The RAs of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, are champions of the Novice Basketball Tournament. RAs, (from left) are Nick Little, Jake Martin, Tommy Aitken, Wes Prather, Brian Fioretti, and Clay Wilkins, coach.



Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, recently gave \$1,231.92 to Doug Duncan (right) to benefit the Baptist Children's Village. Duncan's mother Sherriel (center), member of Bunker Hill, presented the check. Jim Ray (left) is pastor.

An exhibit of recent works by Carey on the Coast Art Faculty will be on display in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College from April 4-28. Ted Rose, department chairman, has over 100 drawings and paintings in corporate collections and has had 21 solo exhibits in the U.S. and abroad. Arthur Williams' sculptural work is included in collections in 21 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, and Mexico. He is also the author of *Sculpture: Techniques, Form and Content*, a widely used college-level textbook. Talle Johnson, a ceramics specialist, has exhibited with the American Craft Enterprise Shows of New York, Bloomingdale's Gallery, the World Trade Center, and the Atlanta High Museum of Art. Last year he won the Mad Hatter of Biloxi Award at the George Orr Museum. The exhibit can be viewed Mon.-Fri. from 1-4 p.m., or by appointment.

A Nationally Televised Concert of Prayer on The National Day of Prayer, sponsored by some 140,000 churches across America, will be conducted on May 4. This nationally broadcast prayer concert will be held annually between 1995 and the year 2000. The theme of the 1995 NDOP is "Seek His Face," and the prayer

emphases of the national broadcast are to seek the face of God in repentance and pray for revival and the advancement of Christ's purposes. The National Religious Broadcasters will promote it among its 800 broadcast members (representing 1,200 radio stations and 275 television stations).

McDowell Road Church, Jackson, will present its Easter pageant, "Crown Him Lord of All," April 14-16 at 7 p.m. Free tickets are available through the church office. For more information, call the church at (601) 372-1594.

The Greenes from Boone, N.C., will be in concert at Antioch Church, House, on April 20 at 7 p.m. Call (601) 986-8761 for more information.

Rawls Springs Church will sponsor a benefit April 22 for Jacob Ellzey, a 5-year-old who has cerebral palsy. He is scheduled for rhizotomy surgery on June 2 in Atlanta. Activities at the benefit — including gospel singing by the L.A. Boys, Ken Hedgepeth, Debbie Ellzey, and Bob Kelly and the Bobcats — will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 9 p.m.

Nancy Ammerman will be the guest lecturer for the N.W. Car-

penter Jr. Lecture Series at Mississippi College on April 20 at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center on campus. Ammerman is professor of sociology at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Clarke College graduating classes of 1959-61 and 1970 are planning reunions. The class of 1970 will hold a dinner at BoRo's restaurant in Newton at 6 p.m. on May 12. Cost for the supper is \$10, which should be paid by May 8 to: Glenn Shows, P.O. Box 160, Ridgeland, MS 39158. On May 13, the Clarke Homecoming will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the fine arts building on campus. The class of 1970 will meet in the library. Other activities will include an alumni business session and celebration. For more information, write to Clarke Alumni, P.O. Box 493, Newton, MS 39345. The classes of 1959, 1960, and 1961 have planned a reunion for July 21. To receive information, write Ina Patterson Weekley, 4328 Higgins Rd., Mobile, AL 36619. Telephone (205) 666-2175. Or write Annie L. Fleming Thornton, 138 St. Augustine Drive, Madison, MS 39110. Telephone (601) 856-4744.

Homecomings

Bethsaida, Philadelphia: April 23; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11; covered dish dinner, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night service; Gene Higginbotham, guest speaker; Jerry Guess, pastor.

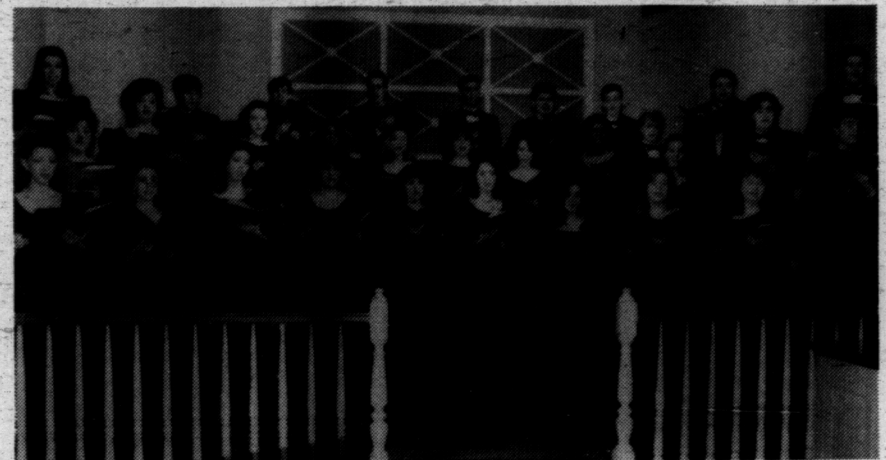


Mississippi Valley
Gas Company

Safety is our first priority.



Calhoun Association had a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Associational Mission Center. Construction will begin as soon as weather permits, and will be done basically with volunteer labor. In addition to adequate office space, the building will provide facilities for many of the ministries of the association. Pictured, from left, are Fred Nabors; Billy Fred White; Wayne Gullett, director of missions; David Mitchell, chairman; Billy Ray Nelson; David Macon; Joe Grady Denton; Troy James; and Donnie Paul Cain. Not pictured is W.R. Harrelson.



The Mississippi College Chamber Choir will perform solo at Carnegie Hall under the direction of modern choral composer John Rutter. The 26-voice choir, under the leadership of Richard Joiner, head of the Music Department, will take the stage June 11 as part of the "Prelude Concert Series" sponsored by Mid-America Productions of New York. The a cappella performance will include works by MC's own professor of music, James Sclater. Following the solo appearance, the chamber choir will join other choirs from across the United States with Rutter to perform Bach's "Magnificat."

SEVENTEENTH
BAPTIST
WORLD CONGRESS
AUGUST 1-6, 1995 BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
CELEBRATE CHRIST: THE HOPE OF THE WORLD!

OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"
NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.
Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

• Steeples • Krinkglas®
• Baptistries • Windows
• Lighted Wall Crosses • Baptistries
Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

800-527-1459
PO Box 1340
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

FIBERGLASS
SPECIALTIES
INCORPORATED

Finding the best insurance is a matter of dollars & sense. Church Mutual can help.

Price is an important consideration when choosing coverage for your church. But value is the real test of a policy — the crucial combination of cost, coverage and service that's invaluable in times of need. For almost 100 years, Church Mutual has specialized in giving outstanding insurance value.

Over 6,900 Southern Baptist churches are currently insured by Church Mutual. Their association with us began with a free, on-site evaluation of their insurance needs. It's the best way we know to ensure the outstanding value that's made us the leading insurer of churches in the nation. Request an evaluation for your church by calling us toll free today.

In Mississippi, call 800-525-4359.

© 1995 Church Mutual Insurance Company



First Church, Pontotoc, will celebrate its sesquicentennial in 1996. Members of the history committee consisting of Callie Young, Merle Hester, Dot Hardin, and Bernice Hale are pictured placing items of historical importance in a newly purchased curio. W.H. Sims III is pastor.

ATLANTA (BP) — Anna J. Stanley, wife of Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, and Southern Baptist Convention president in 1985-86, has refiled for divorce. According to a complaint filed March 20, she is seeking a jury trial for the divorce, alimony, division of their assets, and possession of their north Atlanta home. Mrs. Stanley's complaint for divorce states: "There is no reasonable hope of reconciliation despite plaintiff (Mrs. Stanley) having made every effort to effect one."

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — **Chu Hon and Kei Wol Yi**, a Southern Baptist physician and his wife, were murdered in Khabarovsk, Russia (in the Pacific coast region of eastern Russia), where they had been working on medical projects since 1993. Local police found the bodies March 28 after entering the couples' apartment at the request of a concerned friend who hadn't seen them for several days. Yi, a retired cardiologist from Virginia Beach, Va., had worked with his wife, a registered nurse, at Khabarovsk Medical Institute. He practiced medicine and taught medical personnel there, working through Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. Yi, 60, and Mrs. Yi, 59, were longtime members of the Tidewater Korean Baptist Church in Virginia Beach.

ATLANTA (ABP) — **Oklahoma pastor Lavonn Brown** has been nominated as moderator-elect of the Cooperative Baptist Fellow-

ship. If elected, he will lead the Atlanta-based alternative missions agency in 1996-1997. Brown, pastor of First Church, Norman, Okla., since 1970, would succeed 1995-96 moderator Pat Anderson, a college criminology professor in Lakeland, Fla.

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. (BP) — **Gary Huckabay** has submitted his resignation as president of Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark. Huckabay, who had served as president of WBC since August 1993, resigned March 21 following a special meeting with Williams' board of trustees in Little Rock, Ark. Huckabay stated, "It is with deepest regret that I offer my resignation, effective immediately, to the board of trustees due to an incompatibility in the governance and direction of the college. I wish to thank all of those trustees who have been supportive and encouraging during my short tenure at WBC."

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — **David McCormick**, Southern Baptist missionary to Hong Kong since 1975, has been elected director of Golden Gate Seminary's new regional campus in Arizona. McCormick was elected unanimously by the executive committee of the seminary's board of trustees. The Arizona campus, based on the campus of Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, officially opens in mid-April, offering the master of divinity and master of arts in Christian education degrees.

Revival Dates



Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now.

Participate in 90 days of simultaneous Harvest Revivals.

First, Pascagoula: April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., meal served from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; services, 12:15-12:45 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Price Harris, music; Rex Yancey, pastor.

First, Philadelphia: April 16-19; services, 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.; James Fancher, evangelism consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Micky Gentry, Pontotoc, music; William Jaggar, pastor.

Mt. Vernon (Holmes): April 21-23; 7 nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Kettleman, McAdams Church, evangelist; Henry C. Adams, pastor.

White Oak, Magee: April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and noon dinner on the ground; afternoon worship, 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, Winston Association DOM, evangelist; Tony Moore, Jackson, music; David Norris, pastor.

Jericho, Baldwin: April 16-19; Sunday, 10:50 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Jackson, evangelist; Clyde Cranford, singer.

Kirkville, Marietta: April 14-16; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunrise Service, breakfast, 8 a.m., and worship, 9 a.m.; Len Sullivan, pastor, evangelist; Carlton Spigner, Kirkville Church, music.

Mt. Zion, Independence: April 23-26; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Randy Turner, Laurel, evangelist; Randy Whitworth, Lakeland, Fla., music; Rick Burton, pastor.

Crooked Creek (Lawrence): April 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon, 7 p.m.; Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tommy Snyder, Jonesboro, Ark., evangelist; Larry Davis, music; Mike Gretn, pastor.

Cornersville, Potts Camp: April 23-26; 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Rinehart, New Albany, evangelist; John Hickey, New Albany, music; Samuel L. Cox, pastor.

Juniper Grove, Poplarville: April 23-26; regular Sunday services, dinner at noon, and 7 p.m. each night; Cliff Lazenby, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Argicola, music; Phil Hanberry, pastor.

Parkhill, Jackson: April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish dinner in fellowship hall following morning services, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Blythe, Flora, evangelist; Boyd Germany, Jackson, music; Tim Roaten, pastor.

Old Hebron (Jeff Davis): April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; L. C. Anthony, Prentiss, evangelist; Diann Berry, music; Randy Gardner, pastor.

Ridgecrest, Madison: April 23-26; Sunday and Wednesday, 6 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Bible Study each day at 11 a.m. with soup and salad served; Kim Hall, evangelist; Byron Cutrer, music.

Newhebron (Lawrence): April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention

Board, evangelist; Currie Page, Laurel; Charles E. Davis Sr., pastor.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; James Taylor, Brooklyn, evangelist; Charles Walker and Smokey Hartfield, Lynn Ray Road Church, music; Emmett Boone, pastor.

Parkview, Leland: April 16-19; 7:30 nightly; Donnie Guy, evangelist; Riley Harper, music; Tommy Cherry, pastor.

New Salem, Liberty: April 14-16; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 6:30 and 10 a.m.; Cletus Moak, evangelist; Burnett Carraway, pastor.

Pineview, Clinton: April 16-19; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Roc Collins, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Chris Crook, Clinton, music; Neel Grantham, pastor.

MBIB Ninth Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Workshop

Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson
April 21-22, 1995

Awards Banquet
April 21, 7 p.m.
Deborah Little Key,
Speaker



Workshops

April 22, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Producing a Worship Service — Basic & Advanced

• **Doug Price** •

Basic & Hands On Audio in the Church

• **David Edmonds** •

Producing Church Pageants and Special Events

• **Ken Anderson & Richard Lister** •

Ideas & Solutions

• **Wayne Pierce & Merle Guyton** •

Media Promotion in Your Church & Community

• **Chip Turner** •

Registration deadline extended to April 17.

Cost is \$25 for both days; \$15 per person for one day.

(For churches sending 4 or more for both days, cost is \$20 each.)

Send fees and information to Farrell Blankenship, MBIB,

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651.

CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptisries
★ Steeples ★ Renovation
★ Pews and Pulpit
Furniture
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551
Jackson 957-3762

LifeAnswers



Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My husband bottles up his emotions and won't talk to me. I'm afraid it's going to affect his health. How can I persuade him to talk with me?

1 Peter 3:1-2 (NIV) states, "Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives." Your job is to be a wife and not to "fix" your husband. You cannot make him talk with you, but you can live a life full of honesty and respect so that you are there to listen when he does open up to you. Some men keep things bottled up because they fear rejection or the appearance of weakness. Get involved in activities he likes and ask him questions about things that interest him. Go for walks together, work on projects together, tell jokes, encourage laughter, and go to a funny movie. Laughter is often a good release for pent-up

emotions. Laughing together may help him ease up and result in a rebirth of energy in your relationship.

We live in a transitional neighborhood, and I'm disturbed by some of the people who are moving in. I want to minister to them, but I don't know how to approach them.

You approach them by being friendly. Take them a tin of cookies or a cake and welcome them to the neighborhood. Introduce yourself and find out some basic facts about them such as names, children's ages, where they work, and the church they attend. If they have moved in from out of town, they may appreciate suggestions on local banks, stores, doctors, etc. By getting to know them in this way, they will feel welcome in the neighborhood and be a better neighbor because they feel loved and appreciated. This also gives you the opportunity to show the love of Christ in a relational way.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Partnership lives on

Southern Baptist missionaries (from left) Elizabeth and Hersehel C. Johnson visited Lexington (Miss.) while on furlough March 24-27 and spoke at Lexington's First Church. They also visited First Church members Bill Barrett and Bruce Hill, who were part of a 1989 Japan Partnership Evangelism team. The Johnsons are assigned to Fukuoka, Japan, where he is a professor of English at Seinan Gaukin University. They assisted Japanese Baptists in Futsukaichi in establishing the mission church where Barrett and Hill were assigned in Japan. At the conclusion of the morning service in which the Johnsons spoke, they gave a wood block print to the church as a souvenir of their visit to Mississippi.

Pinson, retired MC Bible professor, dies at age 92

Ernest Ray Pinson Sr., 92, a retired Bible professor at Mississippi College (MC), died of heart failure April 6 at Methodist Medical Center in Jackson.

Funeral Services were held April 8 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, where he was a member. Pinson was a native of Robertson County, Tenn. After graduating from high school in 1921 at age 19, he began teaching near Springfield, Tenn. After obtaining his regular teaching license, he

taught high school at Lexie, near Tylertown in Mississippi.

He later returned to Tennessee to become a bookkeeper for W.H. Simmons & Co. He left in 1934 to attend Baptist Bible Institute, now known as New Orleans Seminary. He later transferred to MC, where he graduated in 1938. He returned to New Orleans and earned the master's and doctoral degrees from the seminary.

Pinson served nine years as chairman of the Bible Department of Clarke College in Newton, then joined the MC staff in 1953. He was M.P. Patterson professor of Bible and chairman of the division of religion for many years. He retired in 1972, but continued to teach Bible courses for seminary extension.

Survivors include his wife Miriam; son Ernest Jr., of Jackson, Tenn.; daughters Mildred Holmes of Indianola and Lois Pinson of San Marcos, Calif.; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

WMU forms missionary parents' group

Parents of missionaries are a select group of people with unique blessings and problems to share. The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) is starting a missionary parents' support group for these special fathers and mothers.

The first organizational meeting of the support group will be held at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, 1995. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$5 per person.

All missionary parents are invited to attend. For more information or to make reservations, contact Mississippi WMU, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, has called Russell D. Moore as interim minister of youth. A native of Biloxi, he is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and is currently a student at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Woolmarket Church, Biloxi.



Moore

Antioch Church, Union, has called Michael McIlwain as minister of music and youth, effective

MC student Doty dies in auto crash

David Campbell Doty, 19, of Brookhaven, died April 5 at Methodist Medical Center in Jackson from injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Clinton. He was a ministerial student at Mississippi College.

An honor graduate of Brookhaven High School, Doty was commissioned April 1 at Gulfshore Assembly to serve as a summer missionary to the Pacific Northwest.

Funeral services were held April 8 at First Church, Brookhaven, where his father is music minister. Burial followed in Eastern Cemetery in Forest.

Doty is survived by parents, David and Cindy of Brookhaven; and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. William O'Hare of Waco, Texas, and Mrs. Syd Doty of Forest.



Doty

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

ALL NEW CHAMPION CRUSADER

14 Passenger Full Size Bus
NO CDL REQUIRED

Bus Supply Company
Hwy. 98 East
(601) 684-2900 McComb, MS 1-800-748-8681

Staff Changes

March 5. A native of Silas, Ala., he received his education at Clarke College and Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Mt. Zion Church, Clarke County. James Young is pastor.

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, has called Steve Bubblitz as single adult minister. The Richmond, Va., native is a graduate of Virginia Tech University and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He formerly served Victory Baptist Church in DeKalb, Ill., where he was minister of singles, youth, and children. He was also Baptist Student Union director at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.



Bubblitz

Odell Tebo of Hattiesburg, has completed his interim pastorate at Maybank Church. He is now available for pulpit supply, interim, or revivals, and may be contacted at 47 Lyles Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 or call (601) 582-4172.

Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus, has called Steve Lammons as pastor effective April 30. A native of Yazoo City, he received his education at Florida Baptist Theological College in Graceville, Fla., and at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Sturgis Church.



Lammons

Good Hope Church, Purvis, has called Alan Carlson as minister of music and youth and Jeanne Carlson as pianist effective March 26. Both received their education at the University of Southern Mississippi. Their previous place of service was Military Church, Sumrall. Robert A. Lee is pastor.

SINCE 1898
RENOVATION
PEWS
1-800-537-4723
WACO, TEXAS

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR. Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 118 S. McCrary Rd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS: Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

NEEDED: SMALL TRAVEL trailer to accommodate two people for sleeping and cooking for use by summer missionaries or Mission Service Corps volunteers doing survey work in Colorado. Contact Dave Basden, Missions Development Council Chairman, P.O. Box 759, Lake City, CO 81235; (303) 944-2713.

BIBLE COLLEGE DEGREE through correspondence \$4 credit hour. Fundamental, conservative. Free catalog: Faith Christian Bible College, 1-800-539-3603.

THE GEORGIA BAPTIST Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc. is currently looking for couples to fill full-time Group Leader positions at their campuses in Palmetto, Meansville, and Baxley, Ga. Qualifications include HS education or GED, minimum age of 25, desire to work in a Christian environment, good driving record,

no criminal record, skills in the area of group dynamics, child care and home management. Group Leaders live in a residence with 8-10 young people. Salary range for Group Leaders is \$9,864-\$11,976 per person per year plus benefits depending on education and experience. Food, housing provided. Call Judy George, 1-800-577-3034 Mondays, Tuesdays, or Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for further information.

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. MURPHY ROBE SALES. Call (601) 483-3171 or 1-800-368-2705.

LIGHT SHOW FOR RENT or sale. Great for Easter/Christmas programs. Call Scott Stanton (601) 981-2491.

CHOIR ROBES and accessories, Pulpit/judicial robes, Children's robes and Baptismal robes. E.R. MOORE ROBE COMPANY. To reach the representative for your area, call 1-800-530-7106.

ADOPTION: LOVING COUPLE longs for a baby. Carol and Zachary, 1-800-655-2699.

Uniform A resurrection people



By Greg Potts
Luke 24, 1 Corinthians 15

Today is Easter Sunday. On this day, we remember Jesus' resurrection from the grave and seek to understand the power the resurrection provides for all Christians. Our lesson today encourages us to become a resurrection people.

The lesson is based on two texts. First, we have Luke's account of the resurrection; then, we study what Paul had to say about the resurrection. Several different texts in the Bible deal with the resurrection. These may differ some on the details of the resurrection but not on the fact that Jesus did rise from the grave.

The resurrection is an important Christian doctrine. We need to understand it to live the Christian life to the fullest.

The power of the resurrection (Luke 24:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:12-17). Each of these texts verifies the power of the resurrection. Luke said that when the women arrived at the tomb early on the first Easter morning, they found the stone had been rolled away. We need to understand that the stone was not rolled away to allow Jesus to leave but to permit the women to enter.

Evidently there were some in Corinth who questioned if the resurrection actually had taken place. Actually, they questioned if anyone could rise from the dead. Paul says that if there is no resurrection from the dead then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised then our faith in life eternal is in vain.

Think about that. Many of you reading this study have experienced the pain of death. You have attended a funeral and a graveside service and walked away from a grave clinging to one precious biblical promise — that your loved one was a Christian and is now with the Lord in heaven. You are able to cling to that promise because of the resurrection. If Jesus did not rise from the grave, there is no hope for mankind. These two texts verify the power of the resurrection.

The promise of the resurrection (Luke 24:4-8; 1 Cor. 15:56-57). Luke tells us two angels appeared to the women to comfort them and instruct them. The angels reminded the women of Jesus' promise to rise again on the third day. Jesus had honored his word. He had risen just as he said he would.

This reminds us that Jesus does what he said he will do. We can trust the Lord. Is there a Bible promise you are having difficulty trusting or claiming? The resurrection provides proof that Jesus honors his word.

Paul spoke of this in his text. He reminds us that death is troubling and painful, yet, through the resurrection, we have victory over death. Without question, death is one of the most troubling aspects of life. Yet, the Bible promises us that through the resurrection, we have power over death.

The encouragement of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:58). Paul reminded the recipients of his letter to continue serving the Lord and not grow weary, because their toil was not in vain.

If you are a worker in a local church, you can very easily become discouraged. You may feel your efforts are useless and your work is not bearing fruit. Paul says the resurrection reminds us to continue working. In the end, God will bless.

This Sunday, millions of people will gather for worship to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. They will sing hymns like "Because He Lives," "Up From the Grave He Arose," "He Lives," and many other favorites. As you sing, remember the power of the resurrection. Remember that there is nothing you are facing in life that is too big for God.

Because Jesus lives, we can face tomorrow!
Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Triumph of the risen Lord



By Sylvia Fleming
Luke 24

On the first day of the week — before daybreak — Mary Magdalene; Mary the mother of James; Joanna, wife of Herod's steward; Salome, wife of Zebedee; and other women went to the sepulchre to anoint, or help in the embalming process of Jesus (Luke 8:3; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10). When the women arrived at the tomb, they found that the heavy stone, which had been sealed (Matt. 27:66) and secured, had been rolled away. These women were very frightened. One must consider the love this group of women displayed in approaching a graveyard before daybreak in an attempt to anoint their Lord. They had no idea how they would get into the tomb, but they went anyway. In the dark before day had dawned, in the midst of the dead, appeared the angels glowing like someone from another world. No wonder they were so afraid! However, their fear did not keep them from observing the absence of the body of Jesus when they entered the tomb. The angels told the women that Jesus was not there, but had risen, reminding them that Jesus had previously spoken to them of his resurrection. Due to their lack of understanding, they did not remember what he had said.

Because of fear and excitement, they ran to tell others the news (Matt. 28:8). Mary related her joyful story to Peter and John who then ran back to the tomb. The men went in to examine the place where Jesus had lain, while Mary stayed outside the sepulchre. While she was outside in tears, Jesus appeared to her.

Later that day, the disciples were shut up in a room scared to death, when Jesus appeared to them, also. Probably they were close to heart failure. They thought they had seen a ghost. Then, Jesus offered them proof that he existed in bodily form and was no spirit. He was and is the God-man. At that time, his Spirit had not been sent to comfort them; however, he was there in body to calm them and give them their final instructions. He offered physical proof that he was indeed himself. Even though he was in his glorified body, he was even able to eat. So, through the physical senses, God presented himself — they saw him; they touched him; they heard him — through three of their five senses. Then they observed that he satisfied two of the five senses through his own glorified body; he partook of food himself which he could both smell and taste.

Then Jesus began to remind them of important matters that he had previously discussed with them and upon which he would finally place even more emphasis. Any parent who is about to leave on a trip will for days make a list for the children, telling them things that must be done in their absence. Then, just prior to the parents' leaving, they will say, "Now, remember what I've said. You must..." reiterating the previous instructions. That was exactly what Jesus did.

Jesus was fulfilling in both word and deed what the prophets of old had foretold, and therefore lent credibility to their words which can never be destroyed by skeptical men, nor through the wiles of Satan.

For every facet of God's plan to be carried out according to his sovereign, almighty will, it was deemed necessary that Jesus suffer, die, and rise the third day. So that the purpose of the suffering would be fulfilled — repentance must be preached and/or taught in Jesus' name. All followers of Jesus Christ must teach the forsaking of one's sins, and they should begin that teaching at home, first ministering to those who have wronged them. Before one can teach others to forgive, they themselves have to be able to forgive. Thus, the Jews of old were to start in Jerusalem, ministering to the most vile of Satan's people — those who had crucified the Lord. Also they were not to leave Jerusalem until he sent the Holy Spirit down upon them.

Finally, Jesus took them to Bethany, one of Jesus' most favored places — home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. It was located near Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. There he ascended back to heaven with blessings upon them and love for them. He left from the same place to which he will one day return at his second coming, when his feet will touch the Mount of Olives and split it asunder. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work God's Son is risen



By Michael Johnson
Mark 15, 16

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!" This will be the refrain sung by millions this Easter Sunday as we celebrate the truth of Christ's victory over death. Those who have experienced the pain associated with the death of a loved one since last Easter should find this week's Bible study especially encouraging.

The reality of death (15:43-46). Death always comes as a shock. Even when death might be expected, as in the case of a prolonged illness, a typical reaction is one of disbelief. There cannot, however, be any question that Jesus Christ died on the cross.

As we saw in last week's lesson, the Roman centurion confirmed Jesus' death by piercing his side (making sure he was dead) as opposed to breaking his legs (method used to quicken death). The officials were in a rush to confirm the deaths because of the time element. In order to accommodate the Jewish religion, the Romans had agreed not to allow dead persons to hang on a cross during Sabbath. With the crucifixion on Friday, the beginning of Sabbath was now a few hours away.

Surprisingly, Joseph of Arimathea stepped into the picture with the request to bury the body. Regardless of what might be said about Joseph's belated act of open commitment, this request put his power, wealth, reputation, and salvation on the line. Apparently the reality of Jesus' death moved Joseph to action. Should not an understanding of the sacrificial death of Jesus also encourage us to step forward and bear witness to the kingdom of God?

We also note in this passage that Pilate called on the centurion for confirmation that Jesus was dead. Not only was this hardened soldier — who no doubt had seen death countless times — certain that the man in question was dead, but he openly testified to that fact. Some want to suggest Jesus did not really die on the cross. A careful examination of the evidence will prove otherwise.

The pain of mourning (16:1-3). Because of the rush to bury Jesus before the Sabbath observance, there was no time to prepare the body of Jesus for burial. Here the women took responsibility for this task as they moved toward the graveyard with the appointed spices and ointments needed to counter the odor of physical decomposition. They acted at the first possible moment, sunrise after the Sabbath.

Mourning clouds our thinking. Obviously the women had not thought through their action, for on the way to the tomb, they discussed the problem of how to get into the crypt. Mourning is also seen in our demeanor. Verse 4 indicates that upon arrival at the tomb the women had to "look up." Obviously in their grief they had approached the tomb with their heads down. When death robs us of those we love, life simply loses its joy and happiness.

The good news (16:4-6). In their grief the women counted on finding a decomposing body in a tomb sealed by a stone too heavy for them to move. Instead they encountered the reality of the resurrection as they observed an open tomb, an empty sepulchre, an unoccupied shroud.

This is the transforming power of the resurrection: death becomes life; pain becomes obsolete; fear becomes peace; and despair becomes hope. Isn't that good news? Death is no longer something to be feared, for in Christ death no longer has dominion. Yes, if the Lord delays his return, we will experience physical death — but we will live!

The promise of his presence (16:7). Immediately after the angel announced the resurrection, the women were commissioned to share a personal message from the risen Christ: Go... tell... he is risen!

It is not enough to just study about the life of Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, you and I have the unique opportunity to know Jesus. Jesus is not just a historical figure; he is a living presence. Jesus is not someone we just talk about, but one with whom we can have daily personal conversation. All of this is because of the resurrection — it makes a difference in the way we live our lives now and serves as the foundation for our future hope. Yes, those we love will die, we will mourn, and it will be painful; but that is only the first stanza. Let us all sing the glorious refrain: "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!"

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

capsules

BWA COMMITTEE TAPS NOMINEES, PLANS FOR ARGENTINA MEETING: WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance executive committee nominated a new staff member and two new regional secretaries for election during the BWA general council meeting to be held in August in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Douglas Inglis, a layman from Glasgow, Scotland, was unanimously recommended for election as director for promotion and development and ministry support. Peter Pinder, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Freeport, Bahamas, was recommended as the new regional secretary of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, one of six regional BWA fellowships. Pinder will succeed current secretary Azariah McKenzie of Jamaica. Daniel Carro of Argentina, director of the Department of Theological Education of the Union of Baptists in Latin America, was recommended as the next regional secretary of UBLA. He will succeed current secretary Jose Misena, Asuncion, Paraguay. Executive committee members were told Baptists in Argentina are opening their homes to others from around the world for the 17th Baptist World Congress in Buenos Aires, Aug. 1-6. The theme of the congress, "Celebrate Jesus Christ, the Hope of the World," will be addressed by speakers from Zimbabwe, Korea, England, and the U.S. Billy Graham will be honored for his work in evangelism. Jimmy Carter will be honored as the recipient of the first BWA Human Rights Award.

CAMBODIAN BAPTISTS FORM FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION: PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP) — Cambodian Baptists capped recent years of extraordinary growth in this Buddhist nation by forming the country's first Baptist convention March 20. At a meeting held in the Russey Keo Baptist Church in Phnom Penh, more than 100 people were present to form the convention. Cambodian Baptists have grown from zero to 43 Baptist churches and more than 1,400 believers in less than three years. This growth has occurred in a nation where Buddhism is the state religion and Christians account for less than 15,000 of the nation's 9.5 million citizens. To maintain this growth, the churches realized they needed to work more closely together, explained Bruce Carlton, one of several Southern Baptist guests at the meeting. Carlton, from Georgetown, Ky., works in Cambodia as a humanitarian aid worker.

ORADEA CHURCH DEDICATES NEW BUILDING: ORADEA, Romania — The Second Baptist Church of Oradea, Romania, dedicated its new building on Feb. 26. Construction on the 3,000-seat auditorium was begun in 1990. The building has been done by a steady stream of members who volunteered their time. As many as 100 persons worked each day on the project. It was paid for by member donations, special offerings, and by gifts from American Christians. The pastoral staff of the church, which gained international fame by its resistance to repression during the last decade of the communist regime, is led by Peter Vidu, chief pastor. The construction of the new building is only one part of a much-larger project which includes an adjoining religious education building, completed in 1993, now being used by the Baptist Theological Seminary of Oradea and the Baptist High School.

CHUTE IS NEW FLORIDA EDITOR: JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Missionary journalist Michael Chute has been selected to be the next editor of the Florida Baptist Witness. Chute, 44, served 12 years as a Foreign Mission Board overseas correspondent, in Brazil and Hong Kong, where he reported on Southern Baptist missions work in Asia and the Pacific Rim. The new editor has more than 20 years of award-winning experience in denominational journalism. He was managing editor of Missouri's Word and Way from 1978-82 prior to attending Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. Chute and his wife, the former Katherine Marie Bengé, have two children, Ryan, 15, and Kristen, 11. He is expected to begin his service as editor June 1, upon completion of contractual obligations to his present employer and upon completing final requirements for the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg this May.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1995

FGRXZ GQS MJGI, RZGR IO OQROJ QHR EQRH
ROUMRGREHQ: RZO YMEJER EQSOOS EY FEVV-
EQD, WNR RZO BVOYZ EY FOGA.

UGRRZOF RFOQRI-YEC: BHJRI-HQQ

This week's clue: F equals W.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Joshua Nine: Twenty-Seven.

Mississippi nurse returns home with appreciation for God, U.S.

By Kathy Latch

Going to Haiti as a missions volunteer from Dec. 9-24, 1994, was a great experience. Because our travel was not with a large group, or even with men, God made his presence even more evident.

There was not safety in numbers but with God, who needs a crowd?

When (project director) Harry Campbell met us at the airport in Haiti, it was apparent that God was getting us through the crowd, just one of the many times the Holy Spirit brought Isaiah 41:10-13 to mind. It is difficult in Haiti not to look about anxiously.

Being a nurse, I was interested in the health care system of the Haitian people. The clinics and small hospitals run by private Christian groups were comparable to small rural health departments in the U.S. They were doing a great job in the conditions in which they had to work.

There was no public health system as we know it. Imagine hospitals with no electricity, no running water, and scant amounts of medicines. Everything the patient needed was brought to the government-run hospitals by family members, including medicines, IV (intravenous) fluids, and food.

People were dying from diseases that we in the U.S. would stop with immunizations and antibiotics. Simply living from sunup to sundown is an endurance test for the population.

I will never be able to describe the feeling of returning to the U.S. on Christmas Eve and getting home on Christmas Day. Americans should get down on their knees and thank God for allowing them to be



Kathy Latch (right) of Glen holds a four-day-old girl brought by her mother (left) to the Christian Outreach Missions Evangelism clinic in Haiti. The mother asked Latch and a group of women with her to pray to God on behalf of the baby.

born in America.

After being in Haiti a couple of days, it is not difficult to imagine life before Christ. The very thought of a world without Jesus makes me shudder. Death, disease, poverty, and pestilence were everywhere.

The Holy Spirit led me to Psalms 91 during a quiet time. It took on a personal meaning, and I knew God was taking care of me.

If one has never taken to heart Ephesians 6:10-20, a ride into the mountains of Haiti will be a mind-changer. The villagers who practice voodoo take it very seriously.

Some of these people actually worship the forces of wickedness mentioned in Ephesians 6, but the great thing was to see God's people

living in the middle of this, witnessing and sharing Jesus.

Missionary Mark Rutledge said that even people in voodoo realize what a great many Christians do not realize or remember: "Greater is he that is in you, than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

It is true that Haiti is a disaster, but there is hope and it is spelled "Jesus." God is hearing the Haitian Christians' prayers and answering them.

If one looks with spiritual eyes, one can see Satan's power over the people weakening and faith in God growing among the people.

If all we see in these stories are suffocating pollution, open sewers, children searching garbage dumps, beggars, disease, military presence, and our hardships, we miss the experience of the people with whom we went to work.

If all we see is what we did, we miss the personal experience with a great and awesome God and what he did!

Latch, a registered nurse, lives in Glen and is a member of Oakland Church, Corinth.

"Christy" — 2 more tries to land slot on network TV

NASHVILLE (BP) — Whatever happened to Christy?

Answer: The highly acclaimed series gets two more tries on network TV.

"Christy," based on the late Catherine Marshall's bestseller, will air — temporarily — in the 7 p.m. Central and Mountain (8 p.m. Eastern and Pacific) time slot April 15, the night before Easter, and April 22.

"The whole decision whether 'Christy' comes back will rest on those two nights," said Ken Wales, executive producer of the program about Christy Huddleston, a young teacher who passed up the comforts of city life to make a difference in the lives of Appalachia's children.

"This is the best test case not only for 'Christy' but for family programs like it," Wales said.

"Christy" made its debut last Easter in impressive fashion: It drew 40 million viewers and topped "60 Minutes" and all other CBS shows in the ratings. Five episodes subsequently were aired, along with one last Thanksgiving, but CBS' commitment to giving

the show a chance for success has been called into question.

The video of the "Christy" premier has sold more than 250,000 copies — achieving bestseller status. The video is being distributed by Broadman & Holman, the publishing arm of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

With this final try for network TV, "Christy" fans are sounding a call to action by writing or calling CBS — 51 West 52nd St., New York, NY 10019, phone (212)-975-4321, or 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, phone (213) 852-2345.

Wales voiced hope Christy can find a place on network TV — but that can be done only with "the continued support of our millions of Christy fans."

The first of the two upcoming Christy episodes, "To Have and To Hold," will revolve around Christy, played by Kellie Martin, weighing a major decision in her own life — whether to accept a proposal of marriage from the community's minister, David Grantland, played by Randall Batinkoff.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 4-13
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO QO
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205